

**Production of hollow spheres made of a meltable material comprises heating the material on a surface region up to its melting temperature, driving off molten material particles, etc.**

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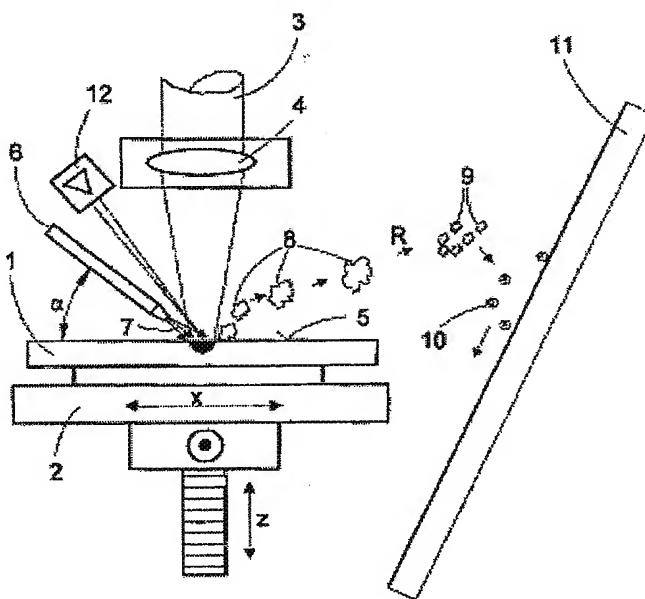
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#### Abstract of DE10039320

Production of hollow spheres made of a meltable material comprises: (i) heating the material on a surface region up to its melting temperature; (ii) driving off a number of molten material particles (8, 9) using a gas stream (7) directed onto the surface; and (iii) contacting the material particles removed from the region with a material which has a temperature below the melting temperature of the material to form the hollow spheres. An independent claim is also included for a device for producing hollow spheres made of a meltable material comprising a laser beam source for directing a laser beam (3) onto the surface of the material, a nozzle (6) for directing a gas stream at an angle  $\alpha$  onto the surface, and a control device for selecting and adjusting the operating parameters such as wavelength and intensity of the laser beam and/or the speed of the gas stream.



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